



CITY OF SUGAR LAND

Engineering Department

CIP Project Number: DR0707

Title: Brazos River Base Flood Elevation Evaluation

Project Phase: Study

75% of Phase Completion

PER



Cost for this Phase: \$ 50,000

Funding Sources: Property tax for Drainage + General Revenue

Project Manager: Shashi Kumar, P.E.

Contractor: NA – FEMA Project

Consultant: Brown and Gay Engineers, Inc.

Project Description:

The City is currently part of a countywide (Fort Bend) effort initiated by FEMA to publish new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps. As part of this update, it is anticipated that Base Flood Elevation (BFE) for Brazos River and Oyster Creek would increase.

Justification: Potential changes in the BFEs may necessitate LIDs to retrofit levees and related structures. Changes in BFEs could also impact drainage conditions outside the LIDs. The scope of this project is to evaluate the potential impact of new BFEs on the City's

Update:

December 2008-FEMA/ contractor are still in the process of finalizing the Oyster Creek and Brazos River Models. All levee districts (LID's) within Sugar Land City Limits have made retrofits to the levee protection system to comply with the new anticipated BFE's. FEMA's schedule has slipped many times and now the release of preliminary maps is anticipated in spring 2009. City's consultant, Brown and Gay Engineers, continue to evaluate the data as they are released, so as to ensure accuracy and to plan for flood protection measures.

February 2009: December 2008 version of the models that were released by FEMA/Contractor was reviewed by the City Staff and consultant on-board. City's concerns/ comments were transmitted for inclusion in future updates. Construction of a levee protection system around the New Territory WWTP is complete. Documentation (LOMR) related to this project is being submitted to FEMA for inclusion in future map changes.

March 2009: Awaiting response from FEMA/ Baker on the release date for preliminary maps. City's consultant BGE has prepared a preliminary report (Feb. 2009) summarizing the impact on new Brazos BFE and the overflow on Bullhead Bayou. Engineering staff is reviewing this data to evaluate potential impact on Airport property and other areas.

April 2009: A meeting with City's engineering staff and FEMA contractor (Michael Baker Jr., Inc.) is scheduled on 6/23/09. Revised draft maps are expected to be presented here. Also, this meeting will provide an update on the anticipated release of preliminary maps and the process.

June 2009 - Awaiting response from FEMA/ Baker on the release date for preliminary maps. City's consultant BGE has prepared a preliminary report (Feb. 2009) summarizing the impact on new Brazos BFE and the overflow on Bullhead Bayou. Engineering staff is reviewing this data to evaluate potential impact on Airport property and other areas.

July 2009- Engineering staff were presented a preview of the preliminary maps by FEMA Contractor in June 2009. Staff was also informed that the preliminary maps are expected to be released for public review for the first time in August 2009. Engineering staff is reviewing this new and best available information as it applies to on-going and future developmental projects. Also, staff is helping the communication department to publish an article informing the residents about the anticipated release of preliminary flood maps.

August 2009- No update to report. FEMA has not yet released the preliminary maps.

September 2009- FEMA did not release the preliminary maps as anticipated by Sept. 30, 2009. City staff is working on public outreach when the preliminary maps are released.

November 2009- FEMA officially release the preliminary maps in Nov. 2009. City staff is working on public outreach including hosting joint public meetings with Missouri City and Fort Bend County to disseminate the new information. City's consultant Brown & Gay Engineers is reviewing the new data, so as to assist the City staff in filing any appeals/ protests if any discrepancies are found or brought to the staff's attention.

December 2009- A public outreach meeting sponsored by Fort Bend County to the benefit of City of Sugar Land and Missouri City residents is scheduled on 1/6/2010 in the Sugar Land City Hall. The proposed DFIRM could have an impact on the Airport's re-development/ expansion efforts. An internal meeting was held to brief the appropriate staff on this matter and the Airport's Master Drainage Plan is being updated to further address this issue.

March 2010- Although FEMA the released preliminary maps for FB County in November 2009, the 90 day appeals and protests period leading to the adoption of final maps has not yet started. At a public/Community Coordination Officers (CCO) Meeting in January 2010, FEMA staff informed that due a technicality (pending official notification in the federal registrar, to which there have been unforeseen delays), the appeals and protest period will not begin until April 2010. Engineering staff have reviewed the preliminary maps with the consultant staff and identified areas of major discrepancies, so as to be ready to file for appeals or protests when the process unfolds.

